

Page 7, please delete "bath and a cutting device (not shown)" and substitute therefor --bath 43 and a cutting device 42--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 27.

Please amend claim 16.

- B<sup>1</sup>
- 1 Sub C 16. (Amended) A method, which does not use extruders, for the production  
2 of expandable plastics granulate from a plastics melt and a fluid blowing agent that is, when at  
3 [an elevated] a pressure within a predetermined pressure[.] range, only partly soluble in the  
4 melt, the method comprising the steps of:  
5           dispersing the blowing agent in the melt with [extensive] shearing of the melt  
6 thereby creating a mixture;  
7           retaining the mixture within a predetermined pressure range for a predetermined  
8 retention time;  
9           subjecting the mixture to [substantially little] less shearing, with respect to the  
10 shearing during the dispersing step, during the predetermined retention time;  
11           cooling the mixture to a temperature that is [several degrees Celsius] above the  
12 solidification temperature of the melt;  
13           granulating the cooled mixture; and  
14           acting on the mixture with static mixer elements.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Line 6, please delete "2," and substitute therefor --2.--.

Line 15, please delete "According to the invention the mixture is acted upon by static mixing elements and by this mixing is avoided segregation."